

a handle assembly including first and second movable arms mounted at the proximal end; and

an elongate actuator disposed within the hollow shaft including a first end operatively connected to the tissue clamp assembly and a second end operatively connected to the handle assembly such that when the handle arms are moved from a first relative position to a second relative position, the first and second jaws of the tissue clamp assembly are moved between an open spaced apart position and a closed tissue gripping position or vice versa.

43. (Amended) A surgical clamp comprising:

an elongate malleable hollow shaft including a distal end and a proximal end, the shaft comprises a plurality of uniform shaft segments wherein the uniform shaft segments each have a receiving end and an outwardly projecting engaging end;

a tissue clamp assembly including first and second movable opposable jaws mounted at the distal end;

a handle assembly including first and second movable arms mounted at the proximal end; and

an elongate actuator disposed within the hollow shaft including a first end operatively connected to the tissue clamp assembly and a second end operatively connected to the handle assembly such that when the handle arms are moved from a first relative position to a second relative position, the first and second jaws of the tissue clamp assembly are moved between an open spaced apart position and a closed tissue gripping position or vice versa.

Please add new Claims 46-54.

46. (New) A surgical device having a longitudinal axis extending between a proximal end and a distal end, comprising:

tissue engaging means including first and second opposed jaws for grasping, securing and occluding body tissue and conduits;

a shaft member operatively coupled to the tissue engaging means, the shaft member being constructed a plurality of pellets disposed within an outer tubing, the tubing being made of malleable material, the shaft member capable of being placed in different curvatures, each pellet having at least one jaw actuating means passage;

a handle assembly operatively coupled to the shaft member and to the tissue engaging means; and

a jaw actuating means for actuating the first and second jaws of the tissue engaging means between an open and a closed position, the jaw actuating means extending through the at least one passage of each of the pellets.

47. (New) The surgical device of claim 46 wherein each pellet includes a curved recess positioned opposite a curved projecting surface, wherein the at least one passage extends from the curved recess to the opposing curved projecting surface, and wherein the curved projecting surface of one pellet movably engages the recess of another pellet forming a ball and socket type interface between adjacent pellets.

48. (New) The surgical device of claim 46 wherein the outer tubing comprises heat shrink tubing.

49. (New) The surgical device of claim 46 wherein the jaw actuating means extends axially through the shaft member and being provided with coupling means at each end which enable the tissue engaging means and the shaft member to be separated from the remainder of the device.

50. (New) The surgical device of claim 46 wherein the outer tubing has a proximal end and a distal end, and wherein the transverse cross-sectional area of the outer tubing increases the distal end to the proximal end.

51. (New) A surgical device having a longitudinal axis extending between a proximal end and a distal end, comprising:

tissue engaging means including first and second opposed jaws for grasping, securing, and occluding body tissue and conduits;

a shaft member operatively coupled to the tissue engaging means, the shaft member including a series of interconnected ball and socket segments and an outer tubing, the ball and socket segments disposed within the outer tubing, the shaft member capable of being placed in different curvatures;

a handle assembly operatively coupled to the shaft member and to the tissue engaging means; and

a jaw actuating means for actuating the jaws of the tissue engaging means between an open position and a closed position, a first end of the jaw actuating means being operatively connected to the handle assembly, the jaw actuating means extending through the plurality of ball and socket segments and a second end operatively connected to tissue engaging means.

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52. (New) The surgical device of claim 51 wherein each segment includes a curved recess positioned opposite a curved projecting surface, wherein each segment includes at least one passage extending from the curved recess to the opposing curved projecting surface, and wherein the curved projecting surface of one pellet movably engages the recess of another segment.

53. (New) The surgical device of claim 51 wherein the outer tubing comprises heat shrink tubing.

54. (New) The surgical device of claim 51 wherein the outer tubing has a proximal end and a distal end, and wherein the transverse cross-sectional area of the outer tubing increases the distal end to the proximal end.

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#### REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on 12 March 2001, in which claims 36-39 and 41-43 were rejected. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections in the Office Action is respectfully requested.